Third Section

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Camping Days are Here Once More

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1—Two of the nature lore group planting ferns on an embankment.
2—Group in front of camps.
3—Hiking round the lake.
4—A tribal council and Eddie class.
5—Getting a shampoo at lakeside.
6—Swimming instruction.
7—Camp leaders, directors and supervisors.
8—The camp kitchen.

DURING the Summer months groups of boys and girls will spend many happy days on the shores of Glinz Lake, up in the Sooke Hills.

Camp Thunderbird, owned by the Y.M.C.A., forms a perfect playground for the young campers. Nestled in between Mount Shepherd and Ragged Mountain, surrounded by virgin forest, and overlooking a veritable jewel of a lake, no better site could be found.

Reached by a stiff two-mile grade, the lake comes as a complete surprise, as it is not visible except from its very shores. The camp itself occupies the east shore of the lake, and covers an area of 320 acres.

First group to occupy the camp this Summer was the intermediate group of the Canadian Girls-in-Training. A group of Y.M.C.A. boys is in camp at present, with another to follow, and the last to camp will be a group of Anglican girls.

The ringing of a huge bronze bell starts a typical day in the camp, followed by flag-raising and morning watch. Breakfast—a good camp breakfast—comes next. After work has been finished, the campers are free to follow their own inclinations.

One of the chief delights of the campers is swimming. Fully qualified instructors are on hand in each of the camps to instruct, and, if necessary, to render assistance. However, if swimming does not appeal at the moment, there is a multitude of other activities open for the campers' choice. Rambles along Sooke Harbor or climbs up Mount Shepherd are organized for the more ambitious. The high point of the day's activities is the campfire, with "taps" ending the day.

Interest Groups

"INTEREST groups" occupy spare time during the day. For the boys, groups in radio, life-saving, first-aid, Indian lore, Indian crafts, wood carving and puppetry are arranged. For the girls, the making of buttons—an art in itself—or a course in creative dramatics, form pleasant ways of passing an odd hour or so. Two courses of special interest to those entering the business world are given for the girls. One is a course in leadership, with practical experience in the camp, and the other a course in personality and charm.

Each camp has its own newspaper, edited and published by the campers. The C.G.I.T. paper is published on the last day in camp, but the "Y" is a daily paper. The papers are made up of camp anecdotes, jokes, articles and a mystery story.

One day during each camp is set aside for visitors, parents and friends. On this day displays of handicrafts are held, swimming exhibitions are given, and competitive games and sports are held.

For most teen-age boys and girls the acme of the Summer is camp. These camps offer perfect facilities—supervision not too rigid, leaders with much experience in helping and guiding and with a personal interest in the campers and organized work and play. In all camps emphasis is placed on character-building and good fellowship.

For thirty years the camps have formed the highlight of the Summer activities of the Y.M.C.A. in Victoria. Camps have been held at Orcas Island, Patricia Bay, Gorge Park, Beaver Lake, Mathieson Lake, Sooke Harbor, and now, the best of them all, Glinz Lake.

Anonymous Benefactor

AN option was taken on the site of Glinz Lake in 1935, and the first camp was held there that year. In 1936 the camp was purchased on mortgage, and less than two weeks ago it was cleared of debt through the generosity of an anonymous benefactor, whose gift of $2,000 enabled the Y.M.C.A. directors to retire the mortgage. The gift was a spontaneous expression of appreciation of the improvements effected at the camp and of its value to the community as a means of providing healthful recreation and character-building opportunities.

Last Winter a group of unemployed men, working under the supervision of the Provincial Forestry Department, carried out many improvements at the camp. The construction of a dining-hall, which seats approximately ninety persons at one time, and of a kitchen marks a considerable advancement.

The two-mile road leading from the highway to the camp has been reconditioned and slash and underbrush cleared away, removing what constituted the greatest fire hazard in the camp. The former swimming float has been replaced by an up-to-date structure, and the rocky ledges along the shores have been cemented in with underwater steps.

Increased Accommodation

ACCOMMODATION at the camp has been greatly enlarged and the former tent lines have been reconstructed, with

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